

What is Claimed:

1. A user interface control, comprising:
a touchpad control substantially in the shape of an arc.
2. A user interface control according to claim 1, wherein the arc is of substantially uniform width.
3. A user interface control according to claim 2, wherein the touchpad control is substantially in the shape of a quarter circle.
4. A user interface control according to claim 1, wherein the arc is at least one of (A) thinner than at least one end of the arc at the middle of the arc and (B) thicker than at least one end of the arc at the middle of the arc and the arc includes at least one of (C) a curved end and (D) a substantially straight end.
5. A user interface control according to claim 1, wherein the touchpad control includes a first region for first touchpad input for a first function and a second region for second touchpad input for a second function, different from said first function, wherein said first region and said second region are divided substantially about the middle of the arc.
6. A user interface control according to claim 1, wherein the touchpad control is divided into a first region of control providing a first set of functionality and a second region of control providing a second set of functionality different from said first set of functionality, wherein said first and second regions are divided substantially about the orthogonal center line of the arc.
7. A user interface control according to claim 6, wherein said first set of functionality provides a set of functionality opposite to said second set of functionality.
8. A user interface control according to claim 6, wherein at least one of said first set of functionality and said second set of functionality includes varying degrees of functionality for at least one of Escape, Start, Options, More, Less OK, Back, Forward, Play, Pause, Up, Down, Fast Forward, Reverse, Skip Forward, Skip Backwards, Menu, Left, Right, Mute, Volume Up, Volume Down, Raise Light and Lower Light functionalities.

9. A user interface control according to claim 6, wherein the degree of functionality of at least one of said first set of functionality and said second set of functionality is determined based upon a distance of an input in said first region of control from the center line of the touch pad arc.
10. A user interface control according to claim 6, wherein the degree of functionality of at least one of said first set of functionality and said second set of functionality is determined based upon at least one of (A) a velocity and (B) an acceleration associated with an input to the user interface control calculated from recent historical interaction with the user interface control.
11. A user interface control according to claim 1, wherein said arc is substantially in the form of a curved cavity in the surface of a device including the user interface control.
12. Any of a portable media player, a remote control for a computing device, a computing device, a swappable component of a computing device and a component for augmenting a computing device comprising the user interface control of claim 1.
13. A user interface control implemented in a surface of a device, comprising:
a touchpad control substantially in the form of a curved cavity of the surface.
14. A user interface control according to claim 13, wherein the curved cavity is of substantially uniform width.
15. A user interface control according to claim 14, wherein the curved cavity is substantially in the shape of a quarter circle.
16. A user interface control according to claim 13, wherein the curved cavity is at least one of (A) thinner than at least one end of the curved cavity at the middle of the curved cavity and (B) thicker than at least one end of the curved cavity at the middle of the curved cavity and the curved cavity includes at least one of (C) a curved end and (D) a substantially straight end.
17. A user interface control according to claim 13, wherein the touchpad control includes a first region for first touchpad input for a first function and a second region for second touchpad input for a second function, different from said first function, wherein said first region and said second region are divided substantially about the middle of the curved cavity.

18. A user interface control according to claim 13, wherein the touchpad control is divided into a first region of control providing a first set of functionality and a second region of control providing a second set of functionality different from said first set of functionality, wherein said first and second regions are divided substantially about an orthogonal center plane of the curved cavity.

19. A user interface control according to claim 18, wherein said first set of functionality provides a set of functionality opposite to said second set of functionality.

20. A user interface control according to claim 18, wherein at least one of said first set of functionality and said second set of functionality includes varying degrees of functionality for at least one of Escape, Start, Options, More, Less OK, Back, Forward, Play, Pause, Up, Down, Fast Forward, Reverse, Skip Forward, Skip Backwards, Menu, Left, Right, Mute, Volume Up, Volume Down, Raise Light and Lower Light functionalities.

21. A user interface control according to claim 18, wherein the degree of functionality of at least one of said first set of functionality and said second set of functionality is determined based upon a distance of an input in said first region of control from the center line of the touch pad curved cavity.

22. A user interface control according to claim 18, wherein the degree of functionality of at least one of said first set of functionality and said second set of functionality is determined based upon at least one of (A) a velocity and (B) an acceleration associated with an input to the user interface control calculated from recent historical interaction with the user interface control.

23. Any of a portable media player, a remote control for a computing device, a computing device, a swappable component of a computing device and a component for augmenting a computing device comprising the user interface control of claim 13.

24. A method for interacting with a user interface control including a touchpad control substantially in the shape of an arc or a curved cavity, comprising:

receiving input to the touchpad control;

determining a location on the touchpad control and a corresponding degree of functionality associated with the location; and

outputting at least one of at least one function call and at least one signal based upon the location and degree of functionality associated with the location.

25. A method according to claim 24, further comprising:
performing the functionality to the appropriate degree in accordance with said at least one of at least one function call and at least one signal.
26. A method according to claim 24, wherein said determining includes determining a distance of the input from the center line of the touchpad control.
27. A method according to claim 24, wherein said determining includes determining at least one of (A) a velocity and (B) an acceleration associated with the input based upon data associated with recent historical interaction with the user interface control.
28. A method according to claim 24, wherein said determining includes determining whether the input is in a first region for first touchpad input for a first function or a second region for second touchpad input for a second function, different from said first function, wherein said first region and said second region are divided substantially about a center of the touchpad control.
29. A method according to claim 24, wherein the touchpad control is divided into a first region of control providing a first set of functionality and a second region of control providing a second set of functionality different from said first set of functionality, wherein said first and second regions are divided substantially about a center of the touchpad control, and wherein said determining includes determining whether the input is associated with the first set of functionality or the second set of functionality.
30. A method according to claim 29, wherein said first set of functionality provides a set of functionality opposite to said second set of functionality.
31. A method according to claim 29, wherein at least one of said first set of functionality and said second set of functionality includes varying degrees of functionality for at least one of Escape, Start, Options, More, Less OK, Back, Forward, Play, Pause, Up, Down, Fast Forward, Reverse, Skip Forward, Skip Backwards, Menu, Left, Right, Mute, Volume Up, Volume Down, Raise Light and Lower Light functionalities.
32. A computer readable medium comprising computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 24.

33. A computing device comprising means for performing the method of claim 1.
34. A computer readable medium including computer executable modules having computer executable instructions for providing control support to a touch pad, the modules comprising:
a detection component for detecting where touch pad input of a touch pad is received, whereby the touch pad is divided into a first region and a second region substantially about an orthogonal center line of the touch pad; and
an output component for outputting a functional result, whereby if input is received in the first region, a functional result of a first set of functional results is output by said output component, and whereby if input is received in the second region, a functional result of a second set of functional results is output by said output component.
35. A computer readable medium according to claim 34, wherein the touch pad is at least one of (A) substantially in the shape of an arc and (B) substantially in the form of a curved cavity in a surface.
36. A processing subunit of a computing device for providing control support to a touch pad, comprising:
a detection component for detecting where touch pad input of a touch pad is received, whereby the touch pad is divided into a first region and a second region substantially about middle of the touch pad; and
an output component for outputting a functional signal, whereby if input is received in the first region, a functional signal of a first set of functional signals is output by said output component, and whereby if input is received in the second region, a functional signal of a second set of functional signals is output by said output component.
37. A processing subunit according to claim 36, wherein the touch pad is at least one of (A) substantially in the shape of an arc and (B) substantially in the form of a curved cavity in a surface.
38. A computing device having a user interface control including a touchpad control substantially in the shape of an arc or a curved cavity, comprising:
means for detecting input to the touchpad control;
means for determining a location on the touchpad control and a corresponding degree of functionality associated with the location; and

means for outputting at least one of at least one function call and at least one signal based upon the location and degree of functionality associated with the location.

39. A computing device according to claim 38, further comprising:

means for functioning to the appropriate degree in accordance with said at least one of at least one function call and at least one signal.

40. A computing device according to claim 38, wherein said means for determining includes calculating a distance of the input from a center line of the touchpad control.

41. A computing device according to claim 38, wherein said means for determining includes means for determining at least one of (A) a velocity and (B) an acceleration associated with the input based upon data associated with recent historical interaction with the user interface control.

42. A computing device according to claim 38, wherein the touchpad control is divided into a first region of control providing a first set of functionality and a second region of control providing a second set of functionality different from said first set of functionality, wherein said first and second regions are divided substantially about a center of the touchpad control, and wherein said means for determining includes means for determining whether the input is associated with the first set of functionality or the second set of functionality.